

History Activities Coordinator

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The History Activities Coordinator is assisted by Tony Davies, Past History Activities Coordinator (2013–2020) and Mislav Grgić, current IEEE History Committee member (2021–2022).

A. Focal points for 2021

Note: Items in **red** require actions by Sections.

- **IEEE Milestones**, see http://ieemilestones.ethw.org/IEEE_Milestones_Program

The IEEE Milestones program honors significant technical achievements in all areas associated with IEEE. It is a program of the IEEE History Committee, administered through the IEEE History Center. Milestones recognize the technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity found in unique products, services, seminal papers and patents. Milestones are proposed by any IEEE member, and are sponsored by an IEEE Organizational Unit, such as an IEEE Section, Society, Chapter or Student Branch. After recommendation by the IEEE History Committee and approval by the IEEE Board of Directors, a bronze plaque commemorating the achievement is placed at an appropriate site with an accompanying dedication ceremony.

- **Sections are advised to propose Milestones for significant achievements that took place in their Section.** If necessary, a list of achievements suitable for Milestones is available, but we need volunteers – maybe a group of Life Members? – to work out a proposal.
- **An additional sign placed in the vicinity of the official Milestone plaque, with a QR code leading to a link with a description of the Milestone, may draw more attention to the Milestone and provides to the general public an easy way to more specific information about it.**
- The game ‘Pokémon GO’ uses so-called Pokéstops where players can get their necessary game tools. Pokéstops are created at landmarks, with the possibility to provide information about the landmark. A Pokéstop created at the site of a Milestone may thus draw more attention to it. **Is it an idea to create such a Pokéstop at the Milestone location(s) in your Section?**
- **Documenting the history of Region 8 Sections** at the Engineering and Technology History Wiki, see <https://ethw.org/>
The Engineering and Technology History Wiki (ETHW) is a wiki-based platform that allows IEEE members and Organizational Units to collaboratively preserve and share their history (including, for instance, the history of individual IEEE Sections). ETHW hosts the Milestones, Oral Histories, and Archives programs, and also allows IEEE members to contribute to Wikipedia-style topic articles or to preserve their own first-hand histories.
 - **Sections are strongly advised to document their history at the ETHW website.** The Region 8 history book *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* may form a source of information and of inspiration for what to preserve. For your convenience, the table of contents of the book has been included at the end of this report.
 - **Sections are also advised to look for scientists and engineers who achieved important scientific or technical results that – although not qualified for a Milestone – may deserve a broader attention;** such people could be interviewed and the interview can then be made public as an ‘Oral History’.
 - **Sections are advised to appoint a History Coordinator. Please inform me about the person in your Section who acts as the History Coordinator;** I can then get into contact with these coordinators directly.
- **Region 8 history book**, available at https://ethw.org/w/images/a/a6/R8_history.pdf
The book *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* presents a history of IEEE Region 8 spanning its origins from the IRE Region in Europe, through the IRE/AIEE merger forming the IEEE and subsequently to the present day Region 8 consisting of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Included are personal reflections of past directors, committee meetings and conferences, student activities, award recipients from Region 8, and Region 8 history papers presented at HISTELCON 2012. A number of archival documents are attached as appendices, including ephemera and minutes from early Region 8 Committee meetings.
 - This book is a living document and is updated whenever new material becomes available. **Feel free to send any comments and suggestions for additions to m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org.**
 - **The book may form a source of information and of inspiration for what to preserve in a Section’s history document.**
- **A few minor focal points**
 - HISTELCON 2021, *How computer technologies and telecommunication change society and economy*, Moscow, Russia, 18–20 August 2021. **Contributions from Region 8 are solicited for this Region 8 flagship conference.**
 - *History of IEEE from 1984 to present* is a book that is currently in progress. **Contributions from Regions 7–10 are very welcome, otherwise the book may be USA-dominated.**

B. Recent Milestone dedications in Region 8

Due to COVID-19, there were no dedications in 2020. The following dedications in 2021 were partly virtual and could be followed via live streaming.

- **Torino, Italy, *Rotating fields and early induction motors*, 1885–1888** #212 (51)
Dedicated **21 January 2021** – IEEE Italy Section
Galileo Ferraris, professor at the Italian Industrial Museum (now Polytechnic) of Turin, conceived and demonstrated the principle of the rotating magnetic field. Ferraris' field, produced by two stationary coils with perpendicular axes, was driven by alternating currents phase-shifted by 90 degrees. Ferraris also constructed prototypes of two-phase AC motors. Rotating fields, polyphase currents, and their application to induction motors had a fundamental role in the electrification of the world.
- **Cascina, Pisa, Italy, *Gravitational-wave antenna*, 1972–1989** #213 (52)
Dedicated **3 February 2021** – IEEE Italy Section
Initially developed from 1972 to 1989, the gravitational-wave antenna enabled detection of ripples in spacetime propagating at the speed of light, as predicted by Albert Einstein's 1916 Theory of General Relativity. Construction of the Virgo Gravitational-Wave Observatory commenced in 1997. In 2017, Virgo and two antennas located in the US launched the era of Multi-Messenger Astronomy with the coordinated detection of gravitational waves from a binary neutron star merger.

The total number of dedicated Milestones in Region 8 is currently 52, with 54 plaques located in 17 Sections: Benelux (3), Croatia (1), Denmark (1), France (4), Germany (6), Israel (2), Italy (7), Norway (1), Poland (2), Russia (Northwest) (2), Serbia and Montenegro (1), South Africa (1), Spain (2), Sweden (1), Switzerland (3), UK and Ireland (16), and Ukraine (1). Note that France and UK and Ireland have one Milestone (#44) in common, with different citations on the plaques, and that one of the Milestones in Poland (#206) has a duplicate plaque in Germany.

C. Approved Milestones in Region 8 – dedication dates to be decided

- Budapest, Hungary, *Budapest Metroline No. 1*, 1896; approved **24–11–2019**
- Rome, Italy, *Giovanni Giorgi's contribution to the rationalized system of units*, 1901–1902; approved **24–11–2019**
- Leiden, Netherlands, *String galvanometer to record a human electrocardiogram*, 1901–1905; approved **24–11–2019**
- Eynsham, England, *Active shielding of superconducting magnets for MRI*, 1984–1989; approved **24–11–2019**
- Milano, Italy, *Multiple silicon technologies on a chip*, 1985; approved **30–09–2020**

D. Upcoming events

- HISTELCON 2021, *How computer technologies and telecommunication change society and economy*, Moscow, Russia, 18–20 August 2021
HISTELCON is a Region 8 flagship conference held every two years on the history of electrical engineering, electronics, computing, their applications, and their impact on humanity's social development. HISTELCON 2021 is already the seventh HISTELCON conference, with predecessors in Paris (2008), Madrid (2010), Pavia (2012), Tel-Aviv (2015), Kobe (2017, together with Region 10), and Glasgow (2019).
More information can be found on the conference website, available at <http://histelcon2021.org/>.
Abstract submission deadline: 15 April 2021 – Full paper submission deadline: 1 May 2021

E. Activities of the History Activities Coordinator

- Throughout: Worked on the Region 8 history book.
- Throughout: Worked on new versions of the History Activities webpage and the History webpage on the Region 8 website; **both pages have undergone a complete revamping.**
- 14-01-2021: Attended (online) the History Activities kick-off meeting with Sara Barros, Region 8 Vice Chair Member Activities, and Tony Davies.
- 14-01-2021: Attended (online) the January IEEE History Committee meeting as its treasurer.
- 21-01-2021: Attended (online) the dedication of the Milestone 'Rotating fields and early induction motors' in Torino.
- 27-01-2021: Attended (online) the January meeting of the 'Future Thinking' subcommittee of the IEEE History Committee.
- 03-02-2021: Attended (online) the dedication of the Milestone 'Gravitational-wave antenna' in Cascina, Pisa.
- 06-02-2021: Sent an email message to the (Sub-)Section Chairs, requesting information about history officers in their units.
- 09-02-2021: Attended (online) the February Region 8 Member Activities team meeting.
- 23-02-2021: Attended (online) the February Region 8 Life Members Affinity Group Chairs meeting as a guest.
- 02-03-2021: Attended (online) the March meeting of the 'Future Thinking' subcommittee of the IEEE History Committee.
- 10-03-2021: Attended (online) the March Region 8 Member Activities team meeting.

F. Interesting weblinks

- *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* – https://ethw.org/w/images/a/a6/R8_history.pdf
- Engineering and Technology History Wiki – <https://ethw.org/>
- List of IEEE Milestones – https://ethw.org/Milestones:List_of_IEEE_Milestones
- List of achievements suitable for Milestones – https://ieemilestones.org/List_of_Achievements_Suitable_for_Milestones
- List of all Oral Histories – https://ethw.org/Oral-History:List_of_all_Oral_Histories
- List of First Hand Histories – https://ethw.org/First-Hand:List_of_First_Hand_Histories
- More links can be found on the History Activities webpage and the History webpage.

Table of contents of the Region 8 history book ‘A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8’

- Preliminary steps towards and the early history of a new Region
 - Information taken from the Benelux Section archives
 - IRE Region in Europe – Bruce B. Barrow
 - A Region’s ‘Birth Certificate’
 - The start of Region 8 and its Sections – Robert C. Winton
 - IRE/AIEE Merger – Bruce B. Barrow
- The later history of IEEE Region 8
 - The creation of IEEE Region 10 and the extension of Region 8
 - The Eastward spread of Sections in Region 8 – Tony Davies
 - Yugoslavia Section from 1971 to 1992 – Baldomir Zajc
 - The present IEEE Region 8 Sections
 - Geographic Unit statistics at year end
 - Membership statistics at year end
- IEEE Region 8 Operating Committees and Appointed Members
 - Operating Committees
 - Appointed Representatives
 - Appointed Coordinators and Subcommittee Chairs
 - Past Directors gallery
- Personal reflections of Past Directors
 - Jean D. Lebel (Director 1965–1966)
 - Rolf Remshardt (Treasurer 1983–1998, Director 1999–2000)
 - Anthony C. Davies (Director 2003–2004)
 - Baldomir Zajc (Director 2005–2006)
- IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings
- IEEE Region 8 conferences
 - EUROCON 71 – Reminiscences by Fritz Eggimann
 - Conference activities in Region 8 – The first 30 years – Jacob Baal Schem
 - Conference activities in Region 8 – After the first 30 years – Baldomir Zajc
- Student activities
 - The early years of IEEE Region 8 Student Activities – until 1984
 - Student Activities Committee meetings – until 1984
 - Student Branch (and GOLD / Young Professional) Congresses
 - Cross-Sectional Student Branch (and GOLD / Young Professional) Congresses
 - Student Paper Contest Finals
- IEEE Award recipients from Region 8
 - Medal of Honor
 - IEEE Major Medals
 - IEEE Recognitions
 - IEEE Service Awards
 - IEEE Corporate Recognitions
 - IEEE Prize Paper Awards
 - IEEE Technical Field Awards
 - Presidents’ Change the World Competition
 - Member and Geographic Activities Board Awards
 - Educational Activities Board Awards
 - Joint Awards Established with National Societies
 - Region 8 Awards
 - Outstanding Life Members Affinity Groups / IEEE Life Members Affinity Group Achievement Award
- Miscellaneous lists
 - Region 8 News
 - IEEE Milestones in Region 8
 - Miscellaneous
- History papers presented at HISTELCON 2012
 - Researching the roots of IEEE Region 8 – Martin J. Bastiaans
 - Setting up the basis for Region 8 – Jean D. Lebel
 - Conferences, technical societies and development – A history of synergy – Jacob Baal-Schem
 - ...Go East, Region 8, Go East ... – Anthony C. Davies
- Appendices
 - Minutes of the meeting of the IRE Inter-Sectional Committee
 - Birth certificate
 - IEEE Regions after the merger
 - Invitations/agendas for the IRE Region 9 Committee meetings
 - Minutes of the two IRE Region 9 Committee meetings
 - Invitations/agendas for the early IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings
 - Minutes of the early IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings